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ISRAEL:

A POEM.

IN THREE PARTS.

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JAMES NISBET, BERNERS STREET.
MDCCCXXXIII.

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THE Author of this humble attempt to illustrate the Holy Scriptures, has endeavoured to erect, upon the immovable pillars of faith, a triumphal arch, in honour of the victories of truth; and in so doing wishes gratefully to acknowledge the importance of the key-stone, [a] on which the stability of this edifice in a great measure depends.

The invaluable testimony to the verity of Divine Revelation, alluded to above, is however, not exclusively devoted to the grand object of the present publication.

[a] The Evidences of Prophecy, by the REV. A. KEITH, Minister of St. Cyrus, Kincardineshire.

ISRAEL.

PART I.

"Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me."

John v. 39

CHILDREN of Zion! sons of Israel!
Once the best-lov'd—the favourites of Heav'n—
What God is like to yours? the Lord of Lords!
Invisible—omniscient—infinite—
Eternal—omnipresent—and all-wise!
Pavilion'd by Heav'n's glitt'ring canopy.

He sitteth on the circle of the earth,
Environ'd with dark waters;—yet His form
Is cloth'd with one resplendent robe of light,
In awful majesty, unspeakable
And glorious far beyond our highest thought.

His spirit garnished the starry sky,—
Through the bright ether roll'd the brilliant spheres,
Peopling the boundless space with glowing worlds.
He treadeth on the dark sea's foaming waves,
Weigheth the mountains, meteth out the heavens,
And rideth on the tempest's dusky wings.
The mighty deep was measur'd in His hand;
He limited the water's rolling rage,—
Suspended earth on nothing,—summon'd light,
When from the ruddy chambers of the east,
It sparkled first on ocean's restless breast,
And spread its glory o'er the verdant earth.
At His command the lightly sailing clouds
Move swiftly through the air, and intercept

The sunlight, as it sheds its streaming rays,
Illumining the deep cerulean sky
With thousand varied hues, or colouring heaven
With rainbow tokens of His changeless love.

These are but parts of His majestic ways,—
A little portion,—since their mighty range
Is vast and fathomless, without a shore;
Exceeding in its measure earth and sea,
High as the highest heaven, and deep as hell.

To whom, then, will ye liken the Great God,
Or what compare with His Infinity?
All nations are before Him—vanity,
And less than nothing to His magnitude.

Canst thou by searching find out God, or view
The whole profession of the Mighty One?
Where dwellest thou? Where is the country

Of snowy storms, or of the viewless wind?
Who balanceth the clouds, or rendeth them
To pour refreshment o'er the thirsty earth?
Doth the dark eagle mount at thy command,
And by thy wisdom, dwell amid the crags?
His smallest works thou comprehendest not,
Then how much less the thunder of his power!
Heav'n's pillars tremble with astonishment
At His reproof, and all the wheeling orbs,
Arrested in their course, obey His word.

Who is my equal? saith the Holy One;
Didst thou devise the lightning's trackless path?
Hast thou an arm like God,—or can thy voice
In roaring thunder speak? Deck thyself now
With majesty and glory; cast abroad
Thy raging wrath; Oh! look upon the proud
And bring him low; go, tread the wicked down;
Conceal them in the dust; in secrecy
Confound the crafty in his own device;

And if this power be thine, I will confess
Thine own right hand omnipotent to save.

Oh! blessed people! highly privileg'd!
The oracles of God were thine alone,—
All other nations mourn'd in ignorance,
Their minds beclouded, and perplex'd with doubt
Of things divine; whilst to thy favour'd race
Successive prophets constantly reveal'd
The will of God concerning His elect:
In imagery sublime, their souls inspir'd
With all the glowing poetry of heaven.

Perpetual warnings bade thee flee from sin,
Continu'd promises renew'd thy hopes,
And thou wert chasten'd as a fav'rite son.
Most sacred ordinances multiplied,
Hedg'd out idolatry and things profane,

Guarded by righteous statutes and commands,
Ye were a people holy to the Lord,—
A royal priesthood, chosen and approv'd.
[a] Yet are ye gone aside from following Him,
Lo! ye are turned as a broken bow,
Or bullock unaccustom'd to the yoke.

[b] Choice vine of Israel! planted by the Lord;
What added care could vineyard e'er receive,
That was not lavish'd bounteously on thee?
Why hast thou brought forth only evil grapes?

[c] Fair olive tree! wide were thy branches spread,
As leafy willows o'er the silvery stream,
Or goodly cedars on high Lebanon;
Yet were they altogether void of fruit,
And now are lopp'd from off the parent stem,
Whilst other fruitful branches grafted in,

[a] Jer. xxxi. 18. [b] Isa. v. 4. [c] Rom. xi.

Hold the rich blessings proffer'd first to thee,
By thee rejected in proud reckless scorn.

Untoward generation! ye have made
[a] Your hearts as adamant—ev'n at noontide
[b] Ye grope in darkness wilfully, or rest
Blinded, perverse, and slow to comprehend
All that is written in your sacred law.

Bear with me, brethren! for I bring you joy,
Delay'd too long by those in whom ye trust.
[c] Our great Jehovah is no son of man,
That He should lie; nor yet of mortal mould,
To change His lofty counsels, and repent
When His eternal purpose is declar'd.

Hath the Lord said, and will He not perform?
[d] The mother may forget her infant babe;

[a] Zech. vii. 12. [b] Deut. xxviii. 29.
[c] Numb. xxiii. 19. [d] Isa. xlix. 15, 16.

The bride may lay aside her choice attire;
Yet shall thy God for ever think on thee.
Thy name is still engraven on His hand,
And He will never leave thee, nor forsake
His chosen people through eternity.

[a] Why will ye die? O house of Israel!
Turn, turn ye to the Lord and be ye sav'd;
He hath no pleasure in the sinner's death;
[b] He waiteth to be gracious—Mourn no more,
Daughters of Zion! rise and put ye on
Garments of praise and not of heaviness.

Thus saith the Lord of Hosts, the mighty Lord,
[c] Oh! fear thou not, my servant Israel;
The chosen seed of Abraham my Friend,
Be not dismay'd, for I am still thy God;
And if thou wilt observe my covenant,

[a] Ezek. xviii. 28. 31, 32. [b] Isa. lxi. 3. [c] Isa. xli. 8. 10.

My righteousness shall be thy strong support,
And my unfailing truth thy sure defence.
[a] When Israel was a child I loved him,
And call'd my sons from Egypt's hostile land;
I drew them with the mighty bands of love,
And I will never utterly destroy:
[b] Yet as new corn is sifted, I will sift
The house of Israel, nor permit one grain
To fall, but the rebellious are as chaff,
As chaff they perish, and shall be consum'd.

[c] The secret of the Lord hath ever been
With those who fear and love His holy name,—
All they who fear Him, dare not disobey,—
And they who love Him, keep his sacred words:
Yet have your teachers disobey'd His voice,
[d] Giving false causes for your banishment,

[a] Hos. 11. 1. 4. [b] Amos ix. 9.
[c] Ps. xxv. 14. [d] Lam. ii. 14.

Saying the Lord your God hath spoken thus,
When heav'nly revelations long have ceas'd.

Woe to the blinded leaders of the blind,
Perverting still the words of Scripture truth;
Your guides consult the page of prophecy,
And honour Moses, but in scorn reject
The only Saviour who has been foreshewn.

Do not your Rabbins say, th' appointed time
Comes not in vengeance to your many sins?
Do not they cry Peace to your longing souls,
[a]While conscience whispers there is yet no peace:
By God's own token, prove their verity.
[b] "If they speak *not* according to my word,
It is, because there is no light in *them*.

Why are your longing hopes still unfulfill'd?
Hath God forgotten to be gracious? No,

[a] Jer. viii. [b] Isa. viii 20.

His promises of endless love are spread
Before your view, penn'd by unerring truth.
[a] Is His ear heavy that it cannot hear
The supplications of His chosen flock?
Is His hand shorten'd that it cannot save?

Pause and reflect—Who led your fathers on
Through the waste howling wilderness? Ev'n He
Who promis'd that His mercy should not fail.—
Will He desert the remnant of His flock,
Nor gather you in one united fold?

[b] Should not a people seek unto their God?
And yet your guides have barr'd the living way
To His eternal and exhaustless grace,
[c] The key of knowledge is engross'd by them,
And lest ye enter at the gate of life,
They ever draw more closely round your hearts

[a] Isa. lix. 1. [b] Isa. viii. 19. [c] Luke xi. 52.

[a] The veil of ignorance, which sov'reign grace
Shall yet remove, if ye will seek the Lord,
And call upon Him while He still is near.
At His approach the mountains melt away,
The rocks are riven and the tempest still'd,
That selfsame pow'r can rend the strongest heart—
And melt the rocky barrer, unbelief,—
Or still th' o'erwhelming tempest of your fears,—
That by the brightness of His countenance,
He may secure you ever for His own.
Unclose your long-sealed senses, and behold
The King of glory! stop your ears no more,
But listen to the tidings of great joy.

The everlasting gates lift up their heads
At His approach, and He is nigh to you;
Then will ye close the temples of your hearts,
And say, thou hast no sanctuary here?

[a] 2 Cor. iii. 14.

Oh! tell it not, lest an eternal shame
Light on your heads, and everlasting woe
In dread perdition sink your souls to hell.

Look to the mountains, hear the voice of one
Who brings the joyful news of love and peace,
Sweet messages from heaven—whence could they come
But from the Eternal, infinite in love?
[a] In Judah's wilds behold a messenger,
The Prophet of the Highest—in the pow'r
And spirit of Elias, lo! he comes—
Messiah's herald, to prepare the way,
Crying, repent, believe, His kingdom comes!

Jehovah speaks—who can but prophesy?
[b] Behold! He cometh, saith the Lord of Hosts,
Desire of ev'ry nation—He shall come

[a] Isa. xl. 3. Mal. iv. 5. Matt. iii. 1, 2.
[b] Mal. iii. 1. Hag. ii. 7.

And enter suddenly His temple-gate,
The messenger of my *new* covenant.
I, saith the Lord, will fill this latter house
With glory, that shall far exceed the first,
And in this place will I bestow my praise.
[a] In the barren desert Sharon's rose shall bloom,
And living water burst from rugged rocks!

Ho! watchmen, slumber not at such an hour;
[b] Arise, speak comfort to Jerusalem—
Say to the cities, now behold your God!
Lift up your voices, be ye not afraid,
Far let the sound be heard, oh! earth, earth, earth,
Rejoice, look unto Him, and be ye sav'd!

[c] Declare the pardon of iniquity;
Proclaim that glorious theme for endless praise,

[a] Isa. xxxv. 1. 6, 7. [b] Isa. xl. 1. 9.
[c] Isa. xl. 2.

Warfare with sin and death accomplished,
Salvation from the curse: man's guilt aton'd;
And the Lord's glory plenteously reveal'd.

[a] Ho! come ye to the waters, freely take
Gifts without money, and without a price,
Yet bought with price of value infinite,
When purchas'd first by Him whose precious blood
Ransom'd our souls from bondage, death, and hell!

Oh Israel! Messiah *has* appeared,
[b] And till the final consummation of His word,
Ye see his face no more.—Both heav'n and earth
Shall surely pass away, yet not one word,
Pronounc'd by the Eternal Spirit of Truth
Shall fail, till all be graciously fulfill'd.
Search then, the page of prophecy, and trace

[a] Isa. lv. 1. [b] Luke xiii. 35.

The beams of hope so thickly scatter'd there;
And say of Him, in whom these bright'ning rays
As in a centre meet, 'It is the Lord.'

[a] Th' appointed term of years had roll'd away—
The fourth great monarchy—imperial Rome,
Had reach'd the zenith of its wide spread pow'r,
And all the eastern nations, full of hope,
Waited the coming of the promis'd King.

Tumult was hush'd—an universal calm
Shed sweet serenity o'er all the earth,—
War slept—and with him all the hydra horde
Of fierce contentions and internal strifes,
Which erst had shaken and disturb'd the land,
Arm'd ev'ry nation and convuls'd all thrones.
[b] Lo! in the East, appear'd a glorious star,

[a] Dan. ix. 24, 25. 490 years from the rebuilding of the wall, B. C.; 457 to the death of Christ, A. D. 33.
[b] Matt. ii. 2.

Precursive of the heav'nly rays of light
Which should at length irradiate mankind,
Dispel the clouds of ignorance and doubt,
And shed a glorious lustre o'er the world.

The meteor was by sages understood,
Not as portentous of impending woe,
But emblematic of th' expected star, [a]
That out of Jacob should arise, and shine
A welcome light in ev'ry darken'd place,
The glorious day-star dawning in all hearts,
To chase the gather'd mists of former years,
And penetrate the inmost soul with joy.

[b] Then righteousness long absent from the earth,
Descending once again to bless mankind,
Embrac'd her heav'n-born sister smiling peace,
Kiss'd her fair brow, with olive branch enwreath'd,

[a] Numb. xxiv. 17. [b] Ps. lxxxv. 10.

And both united in one hallow'd shrine;
While truth and mercy, attributes of God,
Inhabited a meek and lowly form.—

Messiah came, the Anointed Holy one[a]
[b] The woman's seed—[c] of virgin mother born,
[d] The son of David and the Prince of Peace.[e]
[f] Jesus appear'd to set the captive free,
[g] To bruise the serpent's head, to take away
The sting of death, and break the pow'r of sin.

Children of Judah! once a favour'd race,
Now kingless, priestless, exil'd wanderers,
Behold your King! your Priest! your Sacrifice!
Free from all blemish, see the Lamb of God!
[h] On whom the Spirit of the Lord repos'd,

[a] Dan. ix. 24.
[b] Gen. iii. 15.
[c] Isa. vii. 14.
[d] Matt. i. Luke iii.
[e] Isa. ix. 6.
[f] Isa. lxi. 1. Luke iv. 18.
[g] Gen. iii. 15.
[h] Isa. xi. 2.

And without measure was the heav'nly gift.
Behold in Him all prophesy fulfill'd!
In Him the promises are all complete,
[a] Since He alone could make an end of sins,
And reconcile the Majesty of Heav'n.

[b] Himself the Wonderful! the Counsellor!
The Prophet, Priest, and King of Righteousness,
The Everlasting Father—Mighty God!
Since God alone could work His mighty works.

[c] Had He not rais'd the fierce and swelling storm,
His Fiat had not quell'd its boist'rous rage:
The Author and Bestower of all life,
In whom we live, and move, and have our being,
[d] Alone could summon back the parted soul,
To animate again the frigid clay;

[a] Dan. ix. 24.
[b] Isa. ix. 6.
[c] Mark v. 29.
[d] Mark iv. 39.

[a] And He alone who chain'd the pow'rs of speech,
Could set them free to manifest His praise.
[b] None but the Fountain of all health and grace
Could heal the sick, restore their wasted strength,
[c] And offer pardon to the penitent.

[d] All might was His, in heav'n, in earth, in hell;
Nature bow'd down before Him, and He held
[e] Legions of angels ready at His call,
[f] And pow'rless devils subject to His will.

Thus, though He chose in mercy long to shroud
The fulness of His own Divinity,
For who could see His Deity and live ?)
Enough was manifest to prove Himself
The promis'd Shiloh, who should then appear,

[a] John iii. 2.
[b] Isa. xxxv.
[c] Matt. xi. 5.
[d] Mark vi. 56.
[e] Matt. xxvi. 53.
[f] Luke viii. 12.

And e'en His bitter'st enemies exclaim'd,
(When the whole crystal firmament was wrapp'd
In sable gloom as mourning for its Lord)
[a] This, truly, is the very Son of God.

Oh! do your minds revolt that your great King,
[b] The righteous Branch, the Hope of Israel,
[c] Became a man of sorrows, and in death
Was number'd with transgressors.—Search with care
The Scriptures, which contain eternal life:
Is it not written thus, oh! Israel?
Behold the record, read, nor longer doubt,
[d] Messiah was cut off, not for Himself,
He bled, a willing sinless sacrifice!

[e] The brazen serpent in the wilderness
Once heal'd your fathers' deep empoison'd wounds,

[a] Mark xv. 39. [b] Jer. xxiii. 5.
[c] Isa. iv. 3. [d] Dan. ix. 26. Isa. liii.
[e] John iii. 14; viii. 28; xii. 32.

And thus your Saviour Christ was lifted up,
To draw repentant sinners to his Cross,
With these all-cheering words—'Believe and live.'

[a] At this appointed time, all sacrifice
And all oblation ceas'd—The Paschal lamb
Had been accepted, when Almighty God
[b] Provided such a Lamb—His only Son,
As Abraham erst had offer'd on that mount,
His first-begotten, evidence sincere
Of that unequall'd faith through which he shar'd
The cheering vision of futurity.—

The glorious Temple, also, that had been
The admiration of the Roman world,
Was utterly consum'd, and not one stone
Remain'd unmov'd, as Jesus had foretold,
And all the deep foundations were upturn'd!

[a] Dan. ix. 17. [b] Gen. xx. 8. John i. 29.

Yet, did Messiah's brethren vainly hope
To share in honours paid by man to man.
And earthly grandeur dimm'd that erring sight,
Which might have reach'd into the highest heav'n!
His was celestial pow'r, His kingdom sure,
Though mercy veil'd its glory from their sight!

[a] Jehovah look'd—no Mediator came
To reconcile His justice with His love.—
Majestic mystery! that love prevail'd,
And His own mighty arm salvation brought!

When did your princes fail, and David's seed
Remain without the fair inheritance?
[b] Yes, truly Judah's sceptre did depart,
His lawgivers had ceas'd, and Shiloh came.
[c] In Judah's land, in David's Bethlehem,
Beyond the river Jordan, by the sea,

[a] Isa. lix. 16. [b] Gen. xlix. 10.
[c] Isa. ix. 1, 2. Micah ver. 2.

A glorious light dispell'd the shades of death,
The prince arose to rule o'er Israel;
[a] To give new laws, and reign for evermore.

[b] Yet still His presence was desir'd by few,
The multitude despis'd the lowly form,
And saw no beauty in His countenance.
Truly He was revil'd, afflicted, poor,
Smitten, rejected, and unloved by those
For whom he humbly wore mortality.

Yet by this pure and sinless sacrifice,
The way into the Holiest was reveal'd;
[c] Atonement and propitiation made,
The wall of separation broken down,
And ev'ry son of Adam privileg'd
Alike, and purified from sin, by faith
In this one living, consecrated way.

[a] Isa. ix. 7. [b] Isa. liii. [c] Rom. iii. 25.

The ceremonial law had ceas'd, because
It was a shadow of good to come:
And now the very substance is our own,
Since ev'ry type in Jesus concentrates.

Burnt offerings no more atone for sin,—
Neither shall blood of bulls or goats again
Propitiate the favour of your God.
Yet blood is shed, and it will either rest [a]
On your devoted heads, in vengeance due
To long despite of this rich covenant;
Or, like the blood of sprinkling, shed of old,
Will sanctify the faithful penitent.

Oh! let the incense of our prayers arise
Together, to the mercy-seat of God.
Brethren beloved! may it rest on you!
Thus may the proffer'd blessings yet be yours!

[a] Matt. xxvii. 25.

Oh! circumcise your hearts, true Israelites,
Return unto the Lord, believe and live.

[a] Light of the Gentiles! rod of Jesse's stem!
[b] Thy glorious name shall be exalted high,—
[c] The Lord shall be His people's only hope,
[d] As He hath smitten, He will bind you up;
And He will surely heal what He hath torn.

Then lift your supplicating hands and hearts
Unto the God of Heav'n—be this your cry,
"My God, we know thee;" and while yet ye raise
Your voices, Great Jehovah shall reply,
[e] "Thou art my people,—I will dwell with thee,—
I have betroth'd thee ever to myself."
[f] Hast thou not heard or known, Oh Israel!

[a] Isa. xl. 6; xi. 1.
[b] Isa. xii. 4.
[c] Joel. iii. 16.
[d] Hos. vi. 1.
[e] Hos. xi. 19.
[f] Isa. xl. 28.

The Everlasting God, the Mighty Lord,
Creator of the earth, knows not decay?
And they who wait on him renew their strength,
And mount on high, as if on eagles' wings.

[a] Then serve the Lord with trembling—Kiss the Son
Lest He be angry, and ye perish.—Now
His wrath *is* kindled, Oh! despise it not.
[b] Delay not till He whet his glitt'ring sword,
To take deep vengeance on His enemies.
Our God is a consuming fire.—Behold! and see
What desolations He hath wrought, and fear
To trample longer on His proffer'd grace.

[a] Ps. ii. 11, 12. [b] Deut. xxxii. 41.

END OF PART THE FIRST.

ISRAEL.

PART II.

Search ye out of the book of the Lord, and read.
Isa. xxxiv. 16.

Oh Zion! once so gloriously array'd;
[a] How art thou cover'd with a heavy cloud!
[b] The Lord hath laid thy ancient beauty low;
Deeply hath He abhorr'd His sanctuary,
Causing the holy Sabbath and the feast
To be forgotten and observ'd no more.

[a] Lam. ii. 1. [b] Idem i. 6, 7.

[a] Jacob's high places now are desolate,
And all who pass do hiss and wag the head,
"Is this the city men were wont to call,
Perfect in beauty, joy of the whole earth?"

The hum of busy voices still is heard;
Yet they who tread the melancholy streets,
Are not the native children of the soil,
But aliens, tyrants, and proud infidels.
Their language, too, is strange, and Allah's name
Profanes the great Jehovah's once-lov'd shrine.
[b] Howlings are heard within, instead of songs,
Or frequent prayers to one who cannot save;
And some with great excess of sorrow mute,
Are living sepulchres of dreary thoughts.

[c] The widow'd city sits in solitude,
Her glory is departed like a bird,

[a] Amos vii. 8.
[b] Lam. ii. 15.
[c] Amos viii. 3.
[d] Lam. i. 1.

[a] All joy is darken'd, and all mirth is gone.
The merry tabret, and the solemn harp,
Have ceas'd to pour their music on the ear;
[b] The bridegroom's voice resounds in joy no more,
And the bride's glad responsive tones are hush'd.

Shall we not weep o'er thee, Jerusalem;
Messiah mourn'd thee bitterly, and wept;
Utt'ring the deep outpourings of His soul
In tender accents of neglected love.

[c] Oh holy city! beautiful and fair!
Hadst thou but known at least in this thy day,
The things that to thy peace and life belong—
But now they, too, are hidden from thine eyes;
Slain are thy prophets, O Jerusalem,
And ston'd are all thy warning messengers;
I would have gather'd thee beneath my wings,

[a] Isa. xxiv. 11. 8. [b] Isa. xxv. 10. [c] Luke xiii. 34, 35.

E'en as the hen gathers her helpless brood,
Ye would not come, and ye are desolate.

Such was the lamentation of our Lord,
And all the woes and curses yet denounc'd,
Are resting now upon the blighted land.

Children of Israel! weep your native land!
Thus give loud utt'rance to your sad lament;
[a] "Our necks are gall'd by the oppressors' yoke;
For them we labour, yet we have no rest;
Therefore our hearts are faint, our eyes are dim,
[b] And for this cause the merry-hearted sigh."

That holy temple which the Lofty One,
He, who inhabiteth eternity,
Vouchsaf'd to dwell in, and to consecrate
By heav'nly glory visible to man,

[a] Lam. v. 5. 17. [b] Isa. xxiv. 7

That temple is remov'd, and Allah's fanes
In bold defiance mock Jehovah's pow'r.
The elements alone seem still unchang'd
Amidst the general transmutation, still
The placid beauty of the dark blue sky
Remains; but is fair Palestine serene?
The sunbeams brightly fall, yet light no more
On Salem's glory, and her blissful tow'rs;
But many a gilded mosque is glitt'ring there,
And countless minarets reflect the ray.

Alas! how alter'd is the lovely scene!
The snowy vestments of the Levite train
No more are floating on the breezy air;
Nor the white ephod of the Lord's high-priest,
Wont to frequent the gate of Solomon,
To bless th' assembled crowd at eventide;
[a] But turban'd Mussulmen in silent state,

[a] Deut. xxviii. 43.

Impede all access to the holy ground,
Save to the worshippers of Allah's name,
Eyeing with deepest arrogance and scorn,
Those who bow not to do him reverence.

The zephyr ruffles still Bethesda's pool,
Yet blessings rest not on its waters now;
Neither does any heav'nly voice pronounce
Pardon and cure to those who crowd around
Its hallow'd banks, or on its margin rest.
Yet oft they lave themselves in anxious hope
By vain ablutions thus to purify
Their souls, and wash the guilt of sin away.

Deluded people! ye indeed make clean
What man can gaze on, whilst your hearts remain
Uncleans'd from sin, in God's all-searching eye!

The Moslem soldiers now encamp beneath
The holy city's grey defenceless walls,

O'er which the crescent banneret has wav'd,
Triumphant ensign of its conqu'ring lords.

[a] No just and upright ruler governs there;
But the fierce Pacha, proud and merciless,
Oppresses all encircled by his power;
And Palestine in sympathising gloom,
Is fill'd with lamentation, grief, and woe:
Cruelty reigns, and persecution stalks
Like a grim tyrant, o'er the untill'd soil;
The sighs of misery and the moans of grief,
Alternatively met the sadden'd ear;
The husbandman in trembling sows his seed,
And fearing spoliation, hastes to reap
An early harvest of unripen'd grain.

A double curse is lighted on the land;
[b] Thistles produce a hundred fold, and thorns

[a] Jer. xii. 12. [b] Isa. xxii. 13.; v. 6.

With noxious briers, deface th' impov'rish'd earth,
[a] Enjoying thus its long-lost Sabbath rest.

[b] The once rich soil, become a sterile waste,
No longer flows with honey, milk, and oil,
The unprun'd olive yields no treasures now,
Mountains no more are crown'd with verdancy,
[c] And the uncultur'd vines, without support,
In prostrate beauty spread their purple leaves,
The tendrils trailing on the arid earth.

[d] Where is the glory of high Lebanon?
The forest of the vintage is hewn down,
And all its lordly cedars are brought low,
[e] So that a child might briefly number them.

[a] Levit. xxvi. 53.
[b] Joel i. 10—12.
[c] Isa. xxiv. 7.
[d] Isa. xxiii. 9.
[e] Isa. x. 9.

Wine is forbidden in the very land
Where vines indigenous bestow their juice
To cheer and to make glad the heart of man:
There first they grew in wild exuberance,
Gaily festooning the proud cedar's trunk,
But they are fall'n together to the earth.

[a] Bashan and Carmel shake their wither'd fruits,
And Sharon is a desert wilderness;
[b] The scanty palms no longer raise their heads
In free luxuriance, but their stunted growth
Scarcely adorns the rough and stony wild,
Where the tall cypress mourns in solemn gloom,
And screaming kattas crowd beneath the shade.

Successive travellers, with heavy hearts,
Confirm the tale of Judah's misery,

[a] Isa. xxxiii. 9. [b] Joel i. 12.

And say that this bereft and desert land,
So desolate, seems to hold sympathy
With the sad exiles from their much-lov'd soil :
[a] And while they rest among their enemies,
Remains a dreary and uncultur'd waste.

The broken cisterns and deep aqueducts,
Which richly irrigated all the land,
Are faintly trac'd, but no refreshing streams[b]
Revive the barren landscape, thus devoid
Of charm, even as gardens fade and mourn,[c]
Depriv'd of water,—with'ring through neglect.
Gay, flow'ry carpets spread not o'er the plains,
[d] The grass is scorch'd, the herbs are wither'd, through
[e] The constant sloth of those, who dwell within
The fair inheritance of Israel.
Whilst elsewhere arts and sciences increase,

[a] Levit. xxvi. 35. [d] Joel i. 20.
[b] Isa. i. 30. [c] Hosea xiii. 15. [e] Jer. xii. 4.

And useful knowledge lightens other minds,—
[a] This people, of all understanding void,
Remains in ignorant barbarity.

The Mamelukes have fell'd the olive trees;
[b] The boughs are wither'd, dry, and broken off;
Gather'd by women to support their fires.
Thickets of merar fill the wild, and roots
Of bitter wormwood, emblems of the grief
So deeply filling all your anguish'd hearts.
And yet it is recorded that the fruits
Of Italy, became more exquisite
In this fair land, where precious balsam trees
Once freely yielded odorif'rous balm:
But this same shrub, too delicate in growth,
Uncultur'd, now exhales its sweets no more.
Oh! Israel, is not this the mournful truth?—

[a] Isa. xxvii. 11. [b] Idem.

There is no healing balm in Gilead;
And all thy rankling wounds remain uncur'd,
Unfelt—without the great Physician's aid.

Memorials of a lost magnificence,
Scatter'd throughout the land of Palestine,
And vestiges of ruin'd cities prove
The wond'rous desolations which the hand
Of man hath wrought, by Heav'ns directing power.
Dilapidated stones deface the scene;
Fragments of columns once of lordly height,
Are lying prostrate, and the rank grass waves
Over dismantled fortresses and towr's,
Where crumbling walls denote their former strength.

[a] Oh! Israel, thy land *is* trodden down;
Strangers have seiz'd on thine inheritance,

[a] Isa. i. 7.

And all conspir'd unwittingly to haste
Thy coming desolation, and thus fulfil
The doom foretold in ancient prophecy.

Long did the Roman eagle hold its prey,
And fiercer conquerors in turn arose,
To ravage and despoil the fated land:
Then rushing to the devastating work,
Proud Tamerlane and all his Tartar hordes,
Swept like a whirlwind o'er the fertile plains:
Egyptian Mamelukes, and Arab tribes
Ravag'd the country, and successively
Retain'd the whole beneath their iron sway.
New plunderers grasp'd with bold impunity,
The wretched wrecks by former spoilers left;
Intestine factions and external foes
Ruin'd the glory of fair Palestine;
And even Europe's whole united force
Contributed to waste th'unhappy land:

In vain attempt to wrest it from the yoke
Of stern invaders and proud infidels.
Thus hath the heritage been overthrown—
Thus Salem's palaces in ruin lie—
Her glory vanish'd, and her strength decay'd.
[a] Cities which sent out thousands to the field,
Are peopled now by hundreds; or remain
Oft in one undistinguishable mass:
Yet there is one, so rich in time-worn wrecks
Of ancient splendour, that th' admiring eye
In deep-drawn interest views the ruin'd scene,
Like Autumn groves, still beauteous in decay.
[b] Amidst Gerasa's picturesque remains,
Some sculptur'd columns are preserv'd erect,
And at their base lie mutilated rests
Of pillars shatter'd from their pedestals,
Like fallen warriors on a battle plain;

[a] Amos v. 3. [b] Jer. x. 22; xxxiii. 10; xliv. 6.

And sweet varieties of pendant plants
Enwreath around the moss-grown capitals.
'Neath the triumphal arch, no gaudy trains
Dance glad attendance on a victor's steps—
No conqu'ring hero now is honour'd there,—
Though brightly-feather'd birds are flutt'ring round,
And climbing plants of brilliant evergreen
Cling fondly to the grey and mould'ring walls.
This monument of nameless victories,
With laurell'd trophies, is no more bedeck'd,
But half conceal'd beneath the graceful veil,
Which nature throws o'er all the works of art,
Abandon'd to her verdant wild domain.
Temples of marble, lofty palaces,
And various stately edifices rais'd
To ornament the city's spacious bound,
Are metamorphos'd into savage dens,[a]

[a] Isa. xxxiv.

Where prowling beasts in freedom boldly rove,
And there, unus'd to human thraldom, dwell.
The wild depastur'd flocks, and the calves feed
In unmolested ease beneath the shade.
Neglected theatres re-echo now,
To the sweet murmurs of the turtle dove,
And less melodiously at intervals,
The bittern's screech and melancholy owl's
Discordant hooting, through the air resounds.
Within the festive halls of former days,
All tapestried by flow'ry clematis,
The gay birds banquet, chaunt their merry songs,
And nestle in serene security;
[a] Wild asses also safely shelter there,
And feeble conies find a domicile;
While scorpions hide amidst the tangled weeds,
Or glide beneath the briars in snaky folds.
Often the tow'ring eagle's sudden cry,

[a] Isa. xxxii. 14.

Pierces the silent solitude, as swift
It bears away the unresisting lamb,
And wings towards the distant cloud-girt cliff.
Perchance the unprotected one had stooped
To quench its noontide thirst, at waters caught
Within the formerly luxurious baths,
Now open to the welcome summer show'r.
Thus are the herds scatter'd on every hill,
And oft no shepherd guide with care directs
Their devious wanderings, and thus, alas!
Without a pastor, is lost Israel.—

Yet on the plains yielding fresh pasturage,
[a] The Arab rover pitches *his* brown tent;
And oft reclining on the verdant sward,
Wraps the blue mantle round his swarthy limbs,
Divested of their cloak of camel's hair.

[a] Jer. xii. 10.

Suspended from his girdl'd tobe, a pipe
Of reed employs his vacant hours; oft-times
The sportive lambkins gambol to the sound,
And its soft music ever brings them near,
When the dark shadows of the ev'ning fall.
Yet e'en their recreations still betray
The melancholy tone of ev'ry heart,
And in the silent dance, the frequent sigh,
Pourtrays the Arab's customary gloom.

[a] The public highways in this blighted land
Are insecure through lawless plunderers,
Ambush'd beside the rocky pass, or hid
Beneath the thickets of the narrow glen.
Sometimes the merchant slowly traverses
A steep uneven way, but meanly cloth'd,
He gains no comfort from his little store,

[a] Isa. xxxiii. 8.

And passing forward with a serious mien,
Strives to conceal his wealth, and tranquillize
The demon of insatiate avarice.

One added circumstance alone shall swell
This narrative of Judah's miseries,
Though untold woes are resting on the land,
[a] For the just blood once shed in Sion's walls.
There, princes reign no more in righteousness,
But sordid Agas mar the land and drain
Its poor resources, ere the tribute reach
The Sultan's treasury, who thus has cause
[b] "To be ashamed of his revenues."

Yet are there not some fair and fertile spots,
To prove what Palestina once hath been?

[a] Lam. iv. 13. [b] Jer. xii. 13.

Yes, though a full and plenteous harvest fail,
[a] Some scatter'd gleanings yet are left, to tell
That nought but vengeance justly due to sin,
Could thus transform so rich a Paradise.
It is the garden which the Lord hath bless'd,
But man's iniquity entail'd the curse,
And righteous judgments lighted on the land.

Within Judea's border still remain,
Secluded vales, water'd by mountain streams;
And such a valley near mount Sharon lies,
Under the mild protection of a chief,
Whose unaccustom'd lenity preserves
The husbandmen in joyous plenty free;
And no rapacious tyrant ent'ring there,
They cheer their households by an easy toil,
Reaping perennial harvests to the full.

[a] Isa. xvii. 6.

Yes, mirth abounds in all their festive bow'rs,
The stately trees in rich profusion rise,
And sun-light scarcely penetrates the groves,
Which lie embosom'd in the cultur'd hills:
Across the shadeless plain the wild roes bound,
And interspers'd amid the dewy grass,
Lilies adorn the fields, and beauteously,
In pearly brightness, open to the morn.
All Asia's fragrant plants, esteem'd by us
As rare exotics, freely flourish there,
And snowy myrtle flow'rs perfume the breeze;
Their honey cups, bedropp'd with glist'ring dew,
Kiss the fair moonbeam's pallid rays, or shed
Their fragrancy throughout the noontide hours.

Again, what lovely scenery adorns
Fair Gilead's mountains, on whose verdant slopes
The fig-tree freely yields its luscious fruit,
And graceful almonds intermingling, blend
Their darker foliage with the gay-leav'd vine:

'Twining itself in wild luxurious wreaths,
It clings around the od'rous shrubs that grace
The fertile spot, unspoil'd by man's offence.
Sweet flow'rs of ev'ry varied brilliant hue,
Attract the untir'd senses by their bloom,
And Sharon's blossoming roses still exhale,
Their lavish incense through the scented air ;
Yet these bright spots are few and far between ;
Like green oases in the burning plains
Of neighb'ring Araby, whose sallow sons
Are self-created lords of Israel's lot.

Joy echoes o'er the plains of Zabulon,
And though the cities of Samaria [a]
Are levell'd with the ground, some villages
Within their close vicinity remain,
Exempt from desolation, and enjoy

[a] Micah i. 6. Hosea. xiii. 16.

The same prosperity as erst when all
Th' inhabitants came forth to meet the Lord,
And gladly hearing, hasten'd to obey.—

[a] Such was believing Sychar, and in truth,
That blessed village is not desolate;
Sorrow and want can make no sojourn where
The Saviour King was welcom'd and receiv'd.
Yet scorning cities are but ruin'd heaps,—
The vast Sebaste lies a desert waste;
[b] And ye Chorazin and Bethsaida,
Who heeded not the great and mighty works
Wrought by the Son of God within your walls,
Ye to whom His apostles preach'd in vain,
What are ye now but shapeless masses, like
The cursed cities of the plain, whose doom
Shall finally be less severe than yours?

[a] John iv. 5. [b] Matt. xi. 20—24.

Ye did exalt yourselves in pompous pride,
But ye are fallen to the lowest hell.

Such is Judea, but the remnant left
Proves that it still resembles a strong oak, [a]
Which having dropp'd its sear'd and wither'd leaves,
Retains a deep and firmly rooted trunk.
The living substance yet remains, and needs
Nought but the sunshine and the dew of heav'n
Again to clothe it with the richest green.

Oh! Palestine—thou art a leafless tree,
And rudely torn by rough and wintry blasts.—
Your scatter'd children sigh in hope deferr'd;
Summer is ended but they are not sav'd,—
This is the gloomy winter of their woes,
And anxiously they wait th' expected spring.
As heliotropes e'en in a darksome shade

[a] Isa. vi. 13.

Will turn to seek the sun's bright golden rays;
So do the Israelites, in longing, turn
Towards Jesusalem, and make their pray'rs
Devoutly, facing still their former home.

No boundary has ever yet been set
To their far wand'rings; thus they are dispersed
Amongst all nations,[a]— scatter'd to all winds,[b]—
Remov'd to ev'ry kingdom of the earth:[c]
O'er frozen snows, or through the burning sands,
Their well-known footsteps may be trac'd—they rove
Without a settled home indifferently,
Citizens only of the world, the exiled heirs
Of their belov'd and precious father land.
In ev'ry country equally despis'd:
Contempt and persecution they endure,
Far, far, beyond the common lot of man,

[a] Deut. xxviii. 64. [b] Ezek. v. 10.
[c] Jer. xxix. 18. Ezek. xii. 15.

Truly they are in weary banishment,
Employ'd in mean and servile offices,
And often massacred without remorse.

[a] Oh! Israel! now a by-word and reproach;
A curse, a hissing, an astonishment;
Will ye not turn unto the Lord your God,
And humbly bow beneath His chast'ning hand?

But why is fair Judea trampled down
By Gentiles who profane the holy spot?
It is th' Almighty's will,—your ancestors
Have often vainly tried to repossess
Their native soil, and in the ancient times,
Th' apostate emp'ror Julian sent them forth,
To raise another temple on the site
Of that so rev'renc'd and so highly fam'd.

[a] Jer. xxix 18.

Each trace had disappear'd; and yellow corn
In beauty wav'd upon the hallow'd ground;
Yet, aided by a num'rous Roman force,
Deep excavations were begun, and soon
Hope reign'd anew in their despairing hearts:
And long they toil'd with unremitting care,
Till heaven itself by most tremendous signs,
Forbade their future efforts in the work.
Repeated earthquakes rent the moving earth,
And flaming meteors glaring through the skies,
Struck their rebellious souls with horrid awe.

Unaided by the Lord, the project fail'd;
But, if ye seek assistance from above,
Acknowledging at length Messiah's reign,
You may rejoice—success shall quickly crown
With full fruition your exalted hopes.
The Turkish tyrant trembles on his throne,—
The Ottomans, in sad dismay, await
The speedy downfall of their monarchy:

Now is the impious empire waning fast—
A superstitious awe affrights the state;
And God, on whose disposal all depends,
Can render subject every will to His.

Soon shall the haughty crescent humbly bend
Before the Cross, and Israel, christianized,
[a] Become the heir to Gentile riches: then,
[b] The lying prophet of fierce countenance,
Shall, with his servile followers, lick the dust;
[c] And ostentatious Mussulmen will bow
Before the sovereign Lord of heav'n and earth.

Lo! abject Greece, long bound in hated chains,
And struggling oft in vain to cast them off,
Awaits th' expected aid of Israel,
To set her free, and break the grievous bonds,
Galling her freeborn sons, who sadly bear

[a] Isa. lxi. 6. [b] Dan. viii. 23—25. [c] Isa. lx. 14, 16.

The uneasy yoke with loud and bitter 'plaints,
Demanding happiness and liberty.

Unhappy captives! mourning and oppress'd,
The injur'd children of a land once fam'd
For spirits free and uncontrollable,
Till their fair country was enslav'd and seiz'd
By ruthless victors, who ne'er sheath'd the sword
Ere they had subjugated all around.

Fearless of death, triumphantly they swept
In stormy fury o'er the blasted earth,
Which quiver'd underneath their courser's tread,
While the high mountains echo'd fearfully
The warlike trumpet's terror thrilling tones:—
They came—when morning light first brightly dawn'd
On waking villages of classic fame;
And when they pass'd away, the smoking waste
Betoken'd all their black barbarity.

At noontide, when the cloudless sun attain'd
Meridian height—the gleaming scymitars
Flash'd in the golden light, and frantic screams
Arose from maidens in forlorn despair:
How wildly they embrac'd the murd'rer's feet,
While terror flush'd the fever'd cheek, and tears
Bedimm'd their beautous eyes, as they implor'd
The safety of their daring heroes! but
In vain they tore their streaming tresses—still
Pity was mute, and only glitt'ring swords
Made frightful answer to the wretched pray'r.
Before their madden'd view the combat ceas'd;
Their brave defenders mercilessly slain;
Unequal force o'ercame the valiant arm,
And devastation vainly was oppos'd;
The youthful Grecian warrior's noble band
Fell in their noon, like early olive flowers,
Or unripe grapes when yet the leaves are green.

Through clouds of lurid gloom the sunset fell
On smould'ring ashes of whole villages,
Whose slaughter'd peasantry and blacken'd fields,
Mark'd the relentless Moslem's cruel course.
And such were common scenes of misery,
Accompanying the rapid progress made
By Mahomet's deluded devotees.

Why were they render'd thus invincible?
Gaunt desolation follow'd on their steps,
And frequent victories had nerv'd their arms
To matchless deeds of conqu'ring cruelty.
The secret of success is briefly told—
The arch-imposter chieftain exercised
An uncheck'd influence o'er their darken'd minds;
And thus he taught them that no earthly power
Could ward the fatal blow, which *must* descend
At the time fixed through all eternity.
Thus shielded from a long impending dread
Of an uncertain fate, they hurried on,

Resistlessly to conquest or to death,
Not pausing once to view their fearful work,
Relying, if indeed one future thought
Engross'd their vicious and remorseless hearts,
That a sure Paradise of gross delights,
And an eternity of sensual bliss,
Were ever open to the Mussulman.
Thus taught the Prophet, and the senseless crowd
Believ'd the wily tale implicitly,
Giving full credence to th' unholy words
Contain'd within the lying Alcoran.

Oh Israel!—haste to wrest thy heritage
From these impure and godless infidels.
Art thou not full of silver and of gold?
The avaricious spoilers ask no more,—
Yet pause:—Jehovah is unchangeable,—

[a] Nor shall he ever aid you to possess
The promis'd land, till ye forsake your sins,
[b] And look to Jesus, as your only hope:
Unhappy brethren! will ye not regain
The blessing of the Lord?—will ye not hear
The joyful news of that desir'd return,
Long promis'd to your race, and on the eve
Of strict fulfilment, if ye *will* believe?

Prepare to meet thy God, oh Israel!—
Turn to the stronghold, prisoners of hope,—
Blow ye the cornet,—let the trumpet sound,—
The year of jubilee is near at hand,
And the long-wish'd release will shortly come.

The Lord shall make you as the mighty sword,
Which giants wield—unconquerably strong;—
Then shall we know His glorious going forth,

[a] Jer. xv. 19—21. [b] Joel iii. 16.

Prepar'd as morning cometh after night;
And ye, as ready arrows, shall not fail
To reach the spot long destin'd by His hand.
[a] Mountains of Israel yield your precious fruits,
Ye shall be till'd and sown, while man and beast,
Shall multiply beyond all precedent,
And every fruit be plenteously increas'd.
[b] Then shall the heathen say, the deserts waste,
Now like fair Eden's garden are become,
And ruin'd cities, lately desolate,
Fill'd with inhabitants, are strongly fenc'd.

Thus saith the Lord your God, oh! Israel:
Ye are my flock henceforth for evermore:—
[c] One Shepherd have I rais'd, and I will make
A covenant of peace, that ye may dwell
In safety, nor again become a prey

[a] Ezek. xxxvi. 8—11. [b] Ezek. xxxvi. 35.
[c] Ezek. xxxiv. 23. 25. 26. 28.

Amongst the heathen.—Broken are thy bonds,
And show'rs of blessing shall again descend
Upon the land; and none shall be afraid.

[a] All ye waste places of Jerusalem
Sing ye together and break forth with joy,
The Lord hath bared His holy arm before the sight
Of ev'ry nation; He hath now redeem'd
And comforted His people, that the earth
May see the great salvation of our God.
Arise ye, and depart,—is this your rest?
Awake, oh Zion! and put on thy strength,
Rise from the dust, thus saith the Lord thy God;
[b] Behold, the cup of trembling is no more
Thy portion, but my righteousness is near.
Lift up your eyes to heav'n look on the earth,
The heav'n shall vanish and the earth wax old;
Yet my salvation is for evermore.

[a] Isa. lii. 9. [b] Isa. li. and lii.

Ye, then, my ransom'd people, shall return,
The Lord will go before you; He himself
Shall be your rereward—shadow'd by His hand
You shall depart, and everlasting joy
Rest on your heads,—[a] Lo! in that glorious day,
The Lord of Hosts shall be a diadem
Of beauty to His people, and a crown
To all the residue of Israel.

[a] Isa. xxviii. 5.

END OF PART II.

ISRAEL.

PART III.

"All these are the true and faithful sayings of God."
Revelation.

[a] Sing all ye heav'nly powers in ceaseless joy!
Assembled nations wonder and adore!
Mountains and forests be instinct with praise,
And shout in fearful faith, ye sons of hell!
See the salvation which the Lord hath wrought,
Behold the blest estate of Abraham's seed.

[a] Isa. xliv. 23.

[a] The dark and cloudy days are past, and now
From the four corners of the verdant earth,
Our God will cause the captives to return.
No barriers shall impede His high behest,
And all shall know Jehovah's chosen name,
As Saviour of the long rebellious race:
For as a shepherd seeks his wand'ring sheep,
So will He gather them from ev'ry land;
On Israel's mountains they shall safely feed,
Finding good pasture and a sweet repose:
The straying sheep returning to the fold,
Shall find no hireling pastor owns them now;
For the great Watcher of Jerusalem
Shall neither sleep nor slumber, since He gave
His life to ransom and to bless the flock.

[b] Now the dispers'd of Judah shall return,
The farthest isles that shine upon the sea,

[a] Ezek. xxxiv. 12—14. [b] Isa. xi. 12. Idem v. 26.

Like stars upon the blue expanse of heav'n,
Shall see the glorious ensign, and despatch
[a] Their willing ships to take the wand'rers home.
See Zion's children reach their native shore,—
Vessels unload with care the precious freight,
And Ocean smiles in soft tranquillity,
Its foaming billows, pow'rless to destroy.

[b] Give up my sons, oh North!—no chains can bind
My chosen people to the icy plains;
Your frozen regions hastily they quit,
And turn with joyful steps to Palestine.
Keep them not back, oh South!—your flow'ry charms
In vain allure my daughters to remain;—
Behold, they leave the sunny western isles,
And intervening seas impede them not.
The soft, luxurious East retains no more

[a] Isa. lx. 9. [b] Idem xliii. 5, 6.

The restless wanderers who languish'd there,
Sighing for their well-water'd fertile plains,
Of equal beauty under milder skies.

[a] How swiftly do the wretched outcasts fly,
As the light clouds propell'd by gentle winds;
Or, as the dove which found no resting place
Till safe within the window of the ark!
Israel's sure refuge is prepar'd by God;
[b] A certain covert from consuming wrath,
And welcome shelter from th' impending storm.

But hark! what song of glory echoes round,
And sweetly ravishes the list'ning ear?
All Palestine resounds with cheerful chaunts,
And distant mountains echo strains of joy:—
It is the grateful hymn of holy praise,

[a] Isa. lx. 8. [b] Idem xxv. 4; iv. 6.

Rais'd by the happy sons of Israel;
And though they come from many a distant spot,
They meet as brethren, and with glad embrace,
Welcome each other to their fathers' land,
Mourn'd and lamented through the ages past.
Their tuneful voices blend in unison,
Acknowledging one Master;—love of Him
Unites their hearts in brotherly accord,
Sweet as the dews that cover Hermon's height;
Refreshing as the gentle summer show'rs.

Hear the exulting the triumphant cry,
[a] We have a city, *strong*—since God Himself
Salvation gives for bulwarks and for walls:
Open your gates, Jerusalem,—receive
A righteous nation—keeping now the truth,
In pace and gladness we may enter in.

[a] Isr. xxvi. 1, 2.

Why is the city strong? oh! haste, proclaim
The blest assurance of eternal truth.
[a] In Zion there is laid a corner stone,
Elect and precious—sure and often tried,—
A firm foundation,—not to be remov'd:
No more a stone of stumbling and offence.
Fix'd on the Rock of Ages stands our faith,—
Jehovah is our everlasting strength,—
Mountains may perish, and earth's pillars shake,
The heav'ns depart, stars fade and fall away,
Yet still thy throne, oh God! for ever stands:
Thou art the same, thy years shall never fail,—
Eternity! Infinity and Love!

Fear not, oh Israel! saith the Lord your God,—
I gave thee being and I leave thee not,—

[a] Isa. xxviii. 16.

Thou art continually before my sight,
And thou shalt dwell for ever with the Lord.

Thy seed, so long dispers'd, is gather'd now,
To fill the desolate and wasted land:
The precious plant shall not be rooted up,
But shall possess entire the favour'd soil.
The remnant dwell in full security,
Filling the wide and goodly heritage,
Apportion'd to His people by the Lord.
Fresh verdure clothes the newly-water'd plain;
The hills appear again to sing with joy,
And fertile vallies laugh with golden corn.

The harvests more abundantly renew'd:
[a] Ploughmen shall overtake the reapers' steps,
While all the bleating hills shall flow with milk,
And vine-clad mountains freely drop sweet wine.

[a] Amos. ix. 13.

[a] The days are come, when the fair land regain'd,
Shall yield her increase in full plenteousness,
And Judah's rivers pour in fresh'ning streams
The drooping pow'rs of nature to revive.
[a] By reason of the multitudes of men,
Great joy shall waken recent solitudes,
And savage places shall be filled with joy.

Again the desert blooms, [b] the shadowy fir
Shall decorate the wild; and shittahs load
With fragant incense ev'ry passing breeze;
Then all the bless'd inhabitants, no more
Shall eat their bread in bitterness of soul,
But ev'ry man shall find security
[c] Under the vine that twines around his porch,
Or 'neath the spreading fig-tree's cooler shade,
While sportive children blithely carol near,
More happy than the birds, and not less gay.

[a] Mic. ii. 12. [b] Isa. lx. 13.
[c] Mic. iv. 4.

At nightfall, gather'd round their aged sire,
They learn to lisp the honour'd Saviour's name,
Mingling the grateful sacrifice of praise,
With humble prayers to Him who suffers all
To come before Him, and forbids them not.

The Israelites toil not alone to rear
Their ruin'd walls, and to rebuild old wastes;
[a] But sons of strangers shall repair the tow'rs,
And kings shall gladly minister their aid
To chase the spoiler from th' accustom'd prey.
Thus, saith the Lord, oh house of Israel!
[b] "In that great day I will again raise up
"Thy fallen city, closing ev'ry breach,
"And building it, as in the days of old.
[c] "Again there shall be seen in ev'ry street,
"The joyous children at their merry play,
"And aged men supported by their staffs.

[a] Isa. lx. 10. [b] Amos ix. 11.
[c] Zech. viii. 4, 5.

My ransom'd people, called by my name,
Shall freely hold what heathens once possess'd;
And firmly rooted in their rightful land,
[a] No impious hand shall rudely pluck them thence.

Is Israel now despis'd? Is Judah scorn'd
As when he sojourn'd in his banishment,
Receiving daily scoffs from evil men,
Deep vengeance falling on his guilty head,
For the proud scorn display'd towards the Lord?—
No;—Jesus now is honour'd and belov'd,
And all His members share the happiness
Reflected from His plenitude of bliss.
Thus when some lofty mountain's tow'ring peak
Receives the azure brilliancy of heav'n,
The earliest lustre of the dawning light,
Refracted rays illumine as they fall,
The lowest ranges of the brighten'd ridge.

[a] Amos ix. 15.

* Ye distant islands hear Jehovah's words,—
Amidst the nations raise the joyful shout,—
Thus all the families of Israel
Shall be *my* people, as I am *their* God!
Yea, and I will rejoice to do them good,
The measure of their woes is now complete,
Truly they have endured the threaten'd ills,
And all the promis'd blessings shall be theirs:
Weeping, they come to supplicate my grace,
And I will turn their mourning into joy.

Thus saith the Lord, refrain thine eyes from tears,
Assuredly there still is hope; thy work
Shall be rewarded, and thou shalt become
A joy, a praise, an honour, and a name,
Before all nations, and to Zion's height,
With singing shall ye come, and all your souls
As a well water'd garden shall rejoice.

* Jer. xxxi. and xxxiii.

Lo! Salem's palaces again arise,—
From all her cities sounds the voice of joy;
[a] The governors and nobles are their own,
And no oppressive stranger bears the rule.

[b] On all Samaria's mountains, fruitful vines
Are planted and enjoy'd as common things;
Within the happy borders, joy and peace
In concert reign, and tones of merriment
Are heard throughout the fully peopled land.
[c] If thou canst number all the host of heav'n,
Or mete the grains on ocean's sandy shore,
Then shalt thou tell the seed of Israel.

[d] Virgin of Israel, adorn thyself
With all thy beauty, and awake to joy,—
The lute and viol pour their melody,
And youths and maidens mingle in the dance.

[a] Jer. xxx. 21.
[b] Idem xxxi. 5. 17.
[c] Idem xxxiii. 22.
[d] Idem xxxi. 4. 13.

[a] Thy unwall'd cities, fearless of assault,
Are spread abroad throughout Judea's land;
Jehovah is their glory and defence,
And as a wall of fire, He compasseth
His people's dwelling-place for evermore.

A new effect of sov'reign grace succeeds:
God's mighty purposes are further'd now,
By those who once oppos'd his righteous will,
And obstinately held their stubborn course,
Through the long space of eighteen hundred years.

On Israel a gracious work devolves,
As instruments of that Almighty hand,
[b] Which form'd and moulded them to serve His will.
The race of Jacob mightily redeem'd,

[a] Zech. ii. 4. i. 17. [b] Isa. xliii. 19--21.

Have drank so deeply of the well of life,
That their o'erflowing hearts shall never rest
In full enjoyment, ere their gratitude
Has loudly been proclaim'd in ev'ry land,
By tidings of the Saviour's precious love.
Freely they have receiv'd, and they shall give
With zealous cheerfulness and active joy;
The springing fount is inexhaustible,
[a] And widely flows th' invigorating stream
To fertilize the whole created earth.
Dispensers of God's bounty, far they rove,
Wide as themselves were scatter'd,—they go forth
And sow the precious seed with tears of love.
[b] This people God hath formed for Himself,
Appointing them to manifest His grace;
And lo! He hath created a new thing,
Making them path-ways in the wilderness.

[a] Isa. lxvi. 12. 13. 19. [b] Idem xliii. 21. 19.

Jacob my servant, Israel my elect,
[a] Now will I pour my Spirit on thy seed,
And choicest blessings on thy offspring rest.
All lands shall hail their coming, and exclaim,
[b] How beautiful appear the feet of those
Who bring us mercy in that Saviour's name,
From whom they had estrang'd themselves so long.
No more in proud derision shall they say,
Behold a Jew!—but with transporting joy,
[c] His near approach is welcom'd and desir'd.—
The sinner bow'd beneath the heavy load
Of deep iniquity, and all those ills,
Which cause the fainting soul to mourn and weep,
Will change despairing thoughts for looks of hope.
Behold a Jew!—they cry in ecstacy—
As criminals, beneath the headsman's axe,
Would hail a pardon; or, as dying men

[a] Isa. xliv. 2, 3. [b] Idem lii. 7. [c] Zech. viii. 23.

Unfitted to their end, with joy receive
The skill'd physician's saving medicine.

Oh! glorify the wisdom of the Lord,
And trace the secret workings of his love;
Had not this people wander'd far and long,
The language and the laws of other lands
Had been unknown, or difficult to learn:—
But former commerce gives them entrance now,
Not as intrusive aliens, but as friends,
Absent awhile; return'd to bless and save.

[a] E'en as the waters cover the wide sea,
So shall the knowlege of the only God
Prevail, and wholly overflow the earth.
For if the Gentiles were so highly bless'd,
When Israel was diminish'd and brought low,
[b] What added increase shall its fulness bring!

[a] Isa. xi. 9. [b] Isa. lx. 5.

Oh 'tis a happy mission! how untir'd,
The new evangelists pursue their course,—
No more the progress of the Jew is trac'd
By fraud, extortion, and mean avarice;
But, as he journeys on, he gladly bears
The precious gift of God's eternal truth—
A living witness of its verity.
Consoling messages of peace from heav'n
Flow from his lips and cheer the fainting soul;
As fountains in a burning arid waste,
Refresh the drooping pilgrim's toilsome way.
He brings salvation, and bestows the balm
Which heal'd his guilty sorrow-stricken heart,
Reviv'd his joyless spirit, and then made
Divinity an inmate of his breast.

Oft is the pleasurable route retrac'd,—
And mark the Israelite return to view
The church he planted in the wilderness,—
Perchance, the seed may need his watering;

The soil may be o'errun with noisome weeds;
Or thorns may spring to choke the promis'd fruit,
And need a fost'ring or corrective care.

Each village, fill'd with joy at his return,
Sends forth its glad inhabitants to meet
The welcome visitor, and children crowd
Around his venerable form, to court
The kind and ready smile bestow'd on all.

In former times, his coming would excite
The cruel laugh, and many a bitter taunt
Was wont to fall upon the wanderer;
But now in youthful confidence they clasp
His wither'd hand, and lead him to the seat
Where he may rest his limbs, weary, perchance,
Before his will, in this glad pilgrimage.
The sick and aged greet the Israelite,
Imploring blessings on his rev'rend head,

In recompence for that great treasury
Unseal'd by him to soothe their sufferings,
And mildly temper all adversity.

The elders hospitably bring the best
Their fields afford, and a light-footed girl
Serves the refreshment with a modest mien,
Amply rewarded by the goodman's thanks.
Maidens and youths pause in their mirthful sports,
The dance is ceas'd—the merry music hush'd,
Since all esteem his tones full melody.
And circle round the sage in smiling groupes,
Suspended is their sport, yet ev'ry eye
Beams with the radiance of a holy joy,
Unfelt till he awaken'd in their heart
The pure unmingled feeling of delight,
Earthly intelligence can never give.
Affection glistens in his humid eye,
While tears of joy pursue an uncheck'd course

Along his furrow'd cheek, and all await
In mute attention the desir'd address,
By which he strengthens and confirms their faith.

Come, all ye children, hearken unto me,
I will instruct you to obey the Lord,
And briefly would I dwell upon the tale
Of Israel's chosen and peculiar race,
Marking throughout the valu'd history,
A spiritual resemblance to your own.
The narrative of mingled joy and woe
Is like the chequer'd path of human life;
Yet since the cup is mix'd by sov'reign love,
The bitter and the sweet bring equal good;
For earthly sweets are bitter without Him,
And He alone can sweeten bitterness.

The blessed volume of unerring truth,
Is, through the Saviour Christ, become so plain,
That the wayfaring man shall never err,

Nor fail to find, that pleasantness and peace
Ever attend on true religion's steps.
Within your reach is plac'd the precious store,—
There is your only charter to the skies,—
And the exhaustless treasures offer all
Eternal happiness, and earthly peace.

Our fathers were in cruel slavery,
And grievously oppress'd, when God assay'd
To bring them forth, and by his out-stretch'd arm,
He led them, as a shepherd leads his flock;
And with the angel of His presence, bless'd,
Sustain'd, and brought them through the wilderness.
Thus were ye chain'd in darkness, and enslav'd
In double bands of ignorance and sin,
Till God in mercy infinite, reveal'd
The Shepherd of your souls; and, though ye dwell
In the uncertain wilderness of life,
And sojourn in a vale of tears, He will prepare
Your pasture—guide you safely on—

Support you through the awful shades of death,
Into a heav'nly Canaan, and bestow
A mansion in the new Jerusalem.

[a] Be strong and valiant, therefore, though ye war
With sins gigantic and dark pow'rs of ill,
Ye shall be more than conquerors through Him
Who gave Himself for you in tender love.
[b] Be ye courageous,—stand ye fast like men,—
Put on your armour,—take the shield of faith,
Which blunts the deadliest arrows of your foes:
Be girt about with truth and walk in peace,
Your breastplate is the righteousness of Christ:
Your sword invincible the word of God:
Salvation is th' invulnerable helm,
And ye shall wrestle most triumphantly,
Since the Most Mighty lends His puissant arm,
He will provide you with a sure escape,
And he that overcomes inherits heav'n.

[a] Rom. viii. 37. [b] Eph. v. 11—17.

Seek then the *better* country, and a rest
Far more secure than aught enjoy'd on earth;
There is a holy city, of whose bliss
No human heart conceives, and yet we know
An endless weight of glory is prepar'd,
And ever growing bliss laid up in store,
For those who love and serve the God of truth.

There dwells th' innumerable company
Of saints, of angels, and of holy men,
Made perfect in a Saviour's righteousness:
There the true Israelites for ever are,
And the redeem'd, in countless multitudes
Of every nation, kindred, people, tongue,
Cloth'd in white robes of spotless holiness,
Are standing now before the throne of God,
Ever to serve Him: and while day and night
In constant alternation visit earth,
No moon shall ever shine again to them;
They have no night, and need the sun no more;

Since God's eternal presence is their light.
He dwells amidst them, and all former things
Are pass'd away, sorrow, and pain, and tears
For ever vanish'd, and impurity
Can find no entrance there. Now they require
No temple, but in ceaseless worship raise
Eternal Hallelujahs to the Lamb;
For the Lord God Omnipotent doth reign:—
Blessing, thanksgiving, honour, might, and power,
Be to His name for evermore.—Amen.

FINIS.

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